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## Housing Options

...from page 1

housing for the police and/or staff were followed by options for temporary housing during construction.

Permanent solutions for either police or district staff are few and far between, and each has difficulties, though Deppe and Sherris-Watt noted that the constraints for police are fewer than for fire. Response time for fires and medical emergencies mandate a central location (such as the current PSB), while the police can be headquartered farther afield, since they patrol in their cars and are thus not restricted to the center of Kensington.

The preferred solution is finding space in the PSB, the renovation of which costs \$4 million hard costs. Since the police were not included in the initial plans, it's unclear how this cost would be shared between the districts or whether the police would continue paying rent for a space not yet carved out.



The long unused Annex is one possibility for KPPCSD staff and administration. Photo by Elisabeth Cornu.

Another solution is the Annex. This building, unused since around 2007-08, is on the left-hand side as one drives past the Community Center towards the large grassy area of Kensington Park. KPPCSD recently ordered a pest report and discovered that there is no mold or moisture damage. Completely renovating this building for office space would cost around \$250,000-\$750,000. Sherris-Watt and Deppe explained that this building would not house sworn officers but could be a permanent location for district staff and administration.

Another possibility is Building E, on the far side of the grass area of Kensington Park. It has about 1,800 square feet. KCC presently uses the building for staff and KASEP programs, which would require re-housing them. Anne Forrest of KCC expressed dismay that Building E was being considered, and Sherris-Watt tried to reassure the audience that she and Deppe needed to investigate every alternative—and that they appreciated how vital Building E was to KCC and KASEP. One advantage or disadvantage to E is that accessing cars would travel on Windsor Avenue—not past the library, school, or park, but on a

residential street.

Kensington Park itself is another option. The KPPCSD voted January 23 to allow the KFPD to conduct a seismic study of the area next to the library, where plans had been drawn for a new PSB. A new building, estimated at \$14 million, thus faces unknown seismic issues, legal challenges, and community opposition, as well as a new wrinkle: according to the county, the present traffic light would need to be replaced with one specific to emergency vehicles at an additional cost of \$2 million; this required light would take two summers to install. KFPD board president Julie Stein stated in the meeting that the park is no longer under consideration.

The slide presentation then turned to temporary sites, to be used while the present PSB is under construction. Temporary sites include the three side rooms at the remodeled Community Center (cost-efficient at only \$25,000 for furnishings); portables at the Community Center/Arlington Community Church parking lot; Blake Gardens parking lot; commercial real estate; the empty lot at Colusa Circle (unlikely); the parking lot at the Unitarian Church, though this is where the temporary fire station will be located, and there is likely not room for both police and fire.

Combing through the permanent possibilities, it seemed clear that the best solution for a shift of police officers is the PSB itself. If that can't be made to work, a commercial building on the Arlington or at Colusa Circle might need to be leased.

Sherris-Watt and Deppe explained that they have researched some options, such as the cost of portables. There are pros and cons for every choice, permanent and temporary, and wildly varying costs. One advantage to a temporary solution is that site regulations for police services are relaxed or absent; Marilyn Stollon asked how long a designation of "temporary" could extend. No one knew, but anecdotally it seemed that "temporary" might last at least several years. The entire slide presentation can be viewed on the district's website at kppcsd.org.

When the police must move from the PSB is also up in the air: although according to the KFPD website, the start date for renovation is October 2020, Stein explained that this was an arbitrary date chosen by the estimator to project construction costs. Sherris-Watt added that the police district's lease expires in June 2020 and surmised that the police will have to move out by the end of the year if not by July or August. She said that the list of options would be winnowed into the likeliest four or five choices and that then agencies or landlords would be contacted for firm commitments and costs. Meanwhile, the 2x2 committee might think creatively, as architect Cusenbery urges.

At the end of the meeting, John Gaccione proposed using the cemetery: "There's a lot of space," he said, "and the neighbors are very quiet."



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The remodeled Community Center sports a handicapped-friendly apron, a new coat of paint, and a canopy over the main entrance. Detail of underside of canopy on page 4. Photo by Rachelle Sherris-Watt.

## Community Center a Wrap—In Time, On Budget

By Sylvia Hacaj, KPPCSD director

The renovation of the Kensington Community Center/Youth Hut is just about complete! The NanaWall, the operational glass wall system that replaces the old cinderblock west wall, was fabricated in Germany and delivered in mid-February. Meanwhile, the wood storage cabinetry on the north wall was crafted locally—and it too was finished in February. The acoustical ceiling tile, fire alarm system, and wood cladding at the underside of the front exterior canopy were some of the elements completed in the past month.

At the February 13 board meeting of the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, General Manager Tony Constantouros presented a financial update of the project, which showed \$71,000 in contingency funds remaining. KCK Builders, the general contractor, expects to reach "Beneficial Completion" by March 6. That designation means that the county inspector should have issued

a temporary or final certificate of occupancy. All utilities should be functional, and all major aspects of the project will be completed.

The few items expected to be completed soon after that date include exterior lighting and signage, re-installation of the audio visual system, and installation of the automatic window openers and shades on the clerestory windows.

KPPCSD's first priority is to move the Kensington After School Enrichment Program (KASEP) classes back into the Community Center. To ensure a smooth rollout, other regular users will be phased in over subsequent weeks, beginning with board meetings of the KPPCSD and the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) as well as the Kensington Municipal Advisory Council (KMAC). These groups should be able to meet in the new building starting in April, followed by rentals.

Kensington resident Farhat Daud, archi-

[See Community Center, page 4](#)

## Two Scenarios, Many Options for Housing Police

By Linnea Due

At a sparsely attended community meeting on January 25, Kensington Police and Protection Community Services District board president Chris Deppe and vice president Rachelle Sherris-Watt presented several solutions to housing the police during renovation of the Public Safety Building. In previous meetings, Mallory Cusenbery, of RossDrulisCusenbery (RDC) Architecture Inc. presented plans for renovating the PSB that did not include housing for the police or KPPCSD administration. In several fire board meetings where these plans were discussed, Cusenbery asked the boards to create a two-district committee (KPPCSD and the Kensington Fire Protection District) to brainstorm solutions for the police.

This suggestion, also made by the Kensington Property Owners Association, has borne fruit: the districts agreed to create a 2x2 committee to discuss options. Meanwhile the KPPCSD has engaged Cusenbery on its own dime to meet with fire chief Michael Pigoni and interim police chief Steve Simpkins to discuss space needs and alternatives.

But even if a plan is hatched that can accommodate a shift of police in the PSB, police and fire will need to be housed elsewhere while the building is being renovated. It also appears almost certain that staff and administration of one or both districts will need to find new digs on a permanent basis. Thus the format of Deppe and Sherris-Watt's presentation January 25: options for permanent

[See Housing Options, Back page](#)







K E N S I N G T O N

Community Education

KASEP

Kensington Afterschool Enrichment Program

Spring is in the air and KASEP is anticipating our return to a new and improved Community Center in the beginning of the Spring KASEP Session. Until then, many of our larger classes will continue to be held at the Arlington Community Church. We continue to look after our students' safety with additional safety signs and with our wonderful walkers who take the kids back and forth from Kensington School to the church and Building E each day.

Heads up parents! Spring KASEP Brochures will go home in students' backpacks **the last week of February**, so be sure to look in your child's backpack or look at the KCC website: <https://kensingtoncommunitycouncil.org>

Important Dates

Summer Camp Registration: Starts Tuesday, February 25th at 10.00am and is ongoing.

Spring Registration: Tuesday, March 3rd, 7:00pm for kinder and 7:30pm for grades 1-6th.

**Reminder:** Please take the time to double check that all the information in your account is ready before the Curacubby registration site goes live on Tuesday, March 3rd. The easiest way to get to the registration site is if you have already created an account, with a unique email and password. To login to Curacubby go to: [https://kccrec.curacubby.com/users/sign\\_in](https://kccrec.curacubby.com/users/sign_in).

When you are updating your profile, please be mindful that we particularly need any medical information that might be important to your child's safety, such as any allergies they have. We also need to know where each child will be going each day, even if they do not attend KASEP that day. We understand that daily routines vary during the week and we want to ensure the safe delivery of each child.

**Coming in Spring!** Very exciting, KASEP is offering a new class this spring – Pottery with Leah Virsik. In Leah's pottery classes, students will be working with air dry clay, exploring various ways of creating functional and sculptural objects by learning different hand-building techniques: slabs, coils, and pinch pots.

It is all in how you spin the story! This spring KASEP is offering Jean Ellisen's Story Telling class. Jean is a celebrity among Northern California's Story Telling professionals, and we are so lucky to have her join the KASEP teaching family. The magic of storytelling, in the oral tradition, is awakening the imagination of the audience to see the setting, the characters, the beginning, the middle, and the end in their minds eye, thus remembering it well enough to retell it. Through folk tales, legends, and personal narrative, each student will learn the art and be able to tell, re-tell, or act out a story in a fun and supportive environment.

We are sad to say that there will be no Carpentry class this spring session. Sandy Thacker, KASEP Carpentry teacher for over 32 years, is on sabbatical. You can catch her the first week of summer camp, June 8th or fall session 2020.



Leah Virsik, new KASEP Pottery Teacher

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention

Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

In the United States, it has been recommended by the Arthritis Foundation and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for its effectiveness in bringing pain relief, improving balance, and significantly reducing falls. This class is suitable for all people, regardless of physical condition. It is however, especially helpful for people who may be experiencing some health difficulties. The exercises incorporate all the health enhancing benefits of regular tai chi, but focuses on movements that are safe and relatively simple to do.

For further information, contact Nobuo at: [nnishi50@gmail.com](mailto:nnishi50@gmail.com) or 510-495-4860

Tai Chi Chuan

Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Community Center, \$10

A gentle martial art, tai chi is a safe, rewarding activity for people of all ages and all levels of health. Tai chi incorporates both mind and body. Nobuo Nishi, instructor, has been teaching for 18 years.

SAVE THE DATE: High School Senior Photo in May

SUNDAY MAY 3RD at 3:30PM; Keep the tradition alive - all high school seniors, attending all or part of Hilltop Elementary School, are invited to participate in the annual Senior's photo shoot. The photo is always the highlight of the June Outlook.



KCC Summer Camp 2020

\$350 per week

Registration Starts Tuesday February 25th

Enroll on Website:

[KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org](https://KensingtonCommunityCouncil.Org)

Week 1 June 8 - June 12

- Specialty: Sandy-CARPENTRY
- Field Trip: The Jungle

Week 2 June 15 – June 19

- Specialty: SkyHawks SPORTS Medley
- Field Trip: Oakland Zoo



Vicky Brodt will host a craft project every week of camp!

Week 3 June 22– June 26

- Specialty: Chef Vicky COOKING - PIZZA CREATION
- Field Trip: Golden Gate Audubon Service: learn, be, do and have fun – help with beach clean-up, meet naturalist on birding and engage in a team project.

Week 4 June 29 - July 3 SPIRIT WEEK!

- Specialty: Recycle to Upcycle - great creative repurpose art with April!
  - Field Trip: Adventure Playground Berkeley- gr 1-3 plus time to explore the seashore w/Naturalist
- Gr 4-6 - let's go fly a kite! Kites provided!

Week 5 July 6 – July 10

- Specialty: Chef Vicky Home-made Ice Cream
- Field Trip: Scavenger Hunt Kensington Paths w/ Expert Rodney Paul

Week 6 July 13 – July 17

- Specialty: The Art of Story Telling with Jean. Awake the imagination to engage and tell your story
- Field Trip: Miniature Golf at Golfland Castro Valley

Week 7 July 20 – July 24

- Specialty: SkyHawks: Frisbee Golf, Soccer, Basketball and Baseball! Sports with Victor
- Field Trip: CuriOdessey -scientific zoo and playground, Coyote Point

Week 8 July 27 - July 31

- OLYMPIC WEEK
- Field Trip: Walk Golden Gate Bridge, Lunch on the beach at Presidio

Week 9 August 3 - August 7

- Specialty: LEGOS
- Field Trip: Walk off-road to Arlington Park, picnic; Grade 1-2 public bus back home & make snack for camp!

Week 10 August 10 - August 14

- Specialty: Skyhawk Sports Finale!
- Field Trip: Lake Anza swim; take a break, walk over to feed the animals at the Little Animal Farm
- End of Summer Air Bouncer and Jousting Tents on Friday

BBQ Lunches are part of Camp's Friday life - yes, every Friday! If you're a vegetarian, just let us know for a veggie hot dog. Regular lunch is at 12:30, outside - bring your own lunch; Everyday snack is at 4:00pm at the end of a busy camp day. KCC provides



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## Community Center

...from page 1

The underside of the canopy outside the Community Center entrance greets visitors with a clean modern look. Photo by Rachelle Sherris-Watt.

Elegant water fountains (which those in the know now call a hydration station) grace the interior of the Community Center. Photo by Rachelle Sherris-Watt.

tect and project manager with Glass Associates, Inc., reflected on the project: “Overall, it went pretty smoothly. The biggest challenge is always sticking to the budget. When dealing with a remodel/renovation, especially of older buildings, unforeseen construction issues always arise.”

Daud explained that these problems can be anywhere from minor to major—“In the case of the Community Center, there was extra thick asphalt in the parking area that increased demolition and hauling costs. And the extreme disrepair of the skylights necessitated their replacement.”

Due to the original construction, everything had to be thoughtfully considered. “You cannot just drill anywhere you like into this masonry block system and then cover it up later,” Daud said. “The flat roof meant there was no real ceiling depth in which to place lighting, electrical, or ductwork.”

Daud described the care the architectural team took to ensure efficient operation coupled with aesthetics. “Since all of the structural reinforcement and utilities are exposed, we mapped out every conduit run so we didn’t have multiple lines running up and down the walls. We wanted a clean, sparse look to keep the focus on those aspects that provide value to the space, such as the interior/exterior connection through the opening of the southwest wall and the warmth from the addition of the wood cabinets on the north wall.”

Daud concluded, “The project came together well,” an understatement considering that the extensive renovations came in time for spring programs and within budget. The date for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting and community open house will be announced soon, and the multiple people who contributed to this major upgrade are due enormous thanks for all the time and energy that everyone has put into planning, fund-raising, and scheduling around the work. Said Daud: “I hope the Kensington community will be pleased with the investment.” It’s an effort we can all be proud of.

## Letters

...from page 2

I urge the KFPD, KPCCSD, and in particular the 2x2 Committee to exhaust all other options before proceeding. Failure to do so could result in the permanent loss of a truly special place for our children, for our community.

Alexandra Aquino-Fike

## Prepare for Fire Season Now

Dear Editor:

Everyone knows the eucalyptus tree is a hazard in fire country, but did you know that fir, spruce, palm, and yew trees are bad as well? Please act now to remove these specimens along with juniper, cypress, and other unfavorable vegetation from our high-fire-risk neighborhoods. March is a good month to put in lovely new choices to replace what you remove, but time is running out on prime planting season.

If you need financial assistance with removal, visit [diablofiresafe.org](https://diablofiresafe.org) and click on “Vegetation Removal” (far left column, under Programs) and submit an application to the Diablo Fire Safe Council. Their website also offers lists of favorable and unfavorable plants. Email them at [DFSCMiller@comcast.net](mailto:DFSCMiller@comcast.net) or call (510) 282-1265. The Kensington Fire Protection District matches funds raised by Diablo Fire Safe Council to support this critically important program.

California cities like Mill Valley are now requiring the removal of unfavorable trees and shrubs, banning them from the local landscape. Here in Kensington it’s still voluntary, but no less urgent.

Sylvia Elsbury

## Trekking Through Town

To the Editor:

I’ll be leading another Kensington Pathkeepers tour on Sunday, March 8 at 10 am. We will start by Raxakoul Coffee & Cheese and visit paths above Arlington Ave. before descending to Colusa Circle in time for lunch at the Kensington Farmers’ Market.

We suggest participants wear hiking boots and be ready for some uphill trekking. Hiking poles are a good idea, particularly on some of the less developed paths. A steady rain will cancel this event but we’ll plan to hike in anything less.

The Kensington paths were recognized as potential evacuation routes during a presentation last month to the KFPD. The Kensington Pathkeepers are working to secure public ownership of the paths and ensure they remain available for recreation and public safety. Learn more about our efforts and view a map of the paths at [kensingtonpathkeepers.org](https://kensingtonpathkeepers.org).

Rodney Paul



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All photos by Janet Kessler.

## Family First: Wily Coyote’s Here to Stay

By Linnea Due

Lately single coyotes or pairs have been spotted all over Kensington, generating neighborhood discussions and over a hundred posts on NextDoor. Since nearly every recent coyote photo on NextDoor features my street and carport, I was motivated to attend the El Cerrito Environmental Quality Committee’s January 14 presentation on coyotes. The speaker, Janet Kessler, took pains to say that she was not a scientist but a citizen naturalist who has observed coyotes for years, mostly in San Francisco.

Kessler’s interest was initially caught when she noticed that coyotes are curious about people. Now, nearly every day, she heads out about a half-hour before dawn and then again at dusk, observing the animals’ natural behaviors while taking marvelous photographs that she shared with the standing-room-only crowd at El Cerrito’s City Hall. “The camera is my notebook,” she said, “and I use it to put together a story, because coyotes are always doing something.”

Several facts emerged from Kessler’s presentation that struck home: they do not operate on a timetable. You might see a coyote at noon as often as at dusk. They are family-oriented and territorial. This means that if you have a pair of coyotes in your neighborhood, they will keep out other coyotes. If you see a pack of coyotes, it is almost certainly the original pair and their yearling offspring, not numerous adults (unlike dogs and wolves—and remember, DNA tests have shown that all dogs share DNA with wolves and not with coyotes).

Even adult coyotes love to play, and the pair, which mates for life, spend a portion of each day playing. They communicate with each other constantly, through body language, facial expressions, and vocalizations. They are opportunistic hunters, preferring rodents such as rats and squirrels, but will also go after foxes and raccoons. And, as everyone in Kensington is now aware, they grab cats.

It is this last propensity that has provoked alarm. Kessler’s view is that it is up to us to eliminate opportunities: “There is no way for coyotes to distinguish a small pet from any other form of prey,” she writes in her pamphlet, *How to Handle a Coyote Encounter*. “Do not make your beloved pets a part of the food chain. Always supervise small dogs and keep your cats indoors if coyotes are around.” She also noted in the presentation that



coyotes don’t consider a fence a boundary—they can scale a six-foot fence.

Kessler emphasized what to do when you meet a coyote: walk away. If you are walking your dog, the coyote may follow; they are curious, but more likely, the coyote is signaling to your dog (and you) that you are trespassing on its territory or coming too close. If you see a coyote in the distance, head in the other direction.

Do not allow your dog to chase coyotes; what some people interpret as a coyote wanting to play with their dog is more likely the coyote trying to set personal space boundaries. Do not feed coyotes; Kessler says that most nips are from people hand-feeding the animals, and that you are endangering the coyote by training it to approach people.

There is much more: watch “Coyotes as Neighbors” on YouTube, see Kessler’s website at [coyoteyipps.com](http://coyoteyipps.com), and contact her at [coyotecoexistence@gmail.com](mailto:coyotecoexistence@gmail.com).



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# Kensington Calendar

**Locations:**  
Arlington Community Church (ACC), 52 Arlington Ave., 526-9146  
Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave., 525-0292 (closed)  
Kensington Library, 61 Arlington Ave., 524-3043  
Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley (UUCB), 1 Lawson Rd., Kensington, 525-0302, [www.uucb.org](http://www.uucb.org)

**Ongoing:**  
**Jazzercise with Kevin Knickerbocker** Mondays-Fridays, 9am \$20 class or \$55 unlimited per month. ACC.  
**Kundalini Meditation**, Mondays, 7-8 pm, (1st-timers: req'd intro by appt at 6:30. RSVP [amrita@heartofc.org](mailto:amrita@heartofc.org)). \$15 per class, \$10 sr/std. ACC.  
**Mindful Yoga with Wendy Beckerman** Tuesdays, 9:15am, bring yoga mat. \$18 drop-in or discount for series. ACC.  
**CERT Training** The Community Emergency Response Team teaches neighbors to help themselves and help each other. Through CERT, you will receive hands-on training in emergency response. Tuesdays, 6pm, ACC.  
**Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention** Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am, Building E at the park, \$10  
**Israeli Folk Dance** Wednesdays, \$6, lessons/beginners 8pm, request dance party starts at 9pm. ACC.  
**Tai Chi Chuan** Fridays, 9:30-10:30am, Building E at the park, \$10

**March Events**  
**Mar. 1** Jim Gasperini has been working on a cultural history of fire. He will give a talk based on an early chapter, "Fire at the Creation and the Fires of Heaven." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**Mar. 2 Kensington Library Knitting Club** "The Castoffs" All levels welcome. Please bring your own needles and yarn. Learn new stitches, share

your talents, and meet new friends. 6:30pm. Free.  
**Mar. 3, 10, 24, & 31 Family Storytime** Lots of picture books, songs, rhymes, and fun! Stuffed animals & pajamas welcome. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.  
**Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26 Baby & Toddler Storytime** Stories, songs, puppets, scarves, shaky eggs, and loads of fun! Kensington Library, Two identical sessions 10:15 & 11:15am. Free.  
**Mar. 5, 12, 19 & 26 Read to Dogs!** Each week one to three calm & gentle therapy dogs will be at the library, waiting for kids to read to them (or parents of younger kids can do the reading). Call or come by to schedule an appointment. Drop-ins usually also work. Kensington Library, 2:30-3:30 Free.  
**Mar. 5 First Thursday Community Potluck** Monthly potluck supper and program, always free and open to all that would like to join. 6pm. ACC.  
**Mar. 8 Dorothy Herzberg**, retired from teaching at Richmond High School, will speak about her lifetime of public service, including her time as one of the first 400 Peace Corps volunteers. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**Mar. 8 Pathkeepers Hike** Come join the Kensington Pathkeepers on a hike around Kensington's paths. Meet at 10am at Raxakoul Coffee & Cheese on Arlington Ave.  
**Mar. 9 African Harp Performance** with Sean Gaskell The West African kora is a 21-string harp native to the Mandinka people of Gambia, Senegal, Mali, Guinea and Guinea Bissau. It dates back 300 years, although some of the music comes from the middle 13th century. Sean has studied with master kora players in the Gambia. Between songs, learn about the kora and its cultural significance. Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.

**Mar. 9 Image Transfer Demonstration** The El Cerrito Art Association will host artist and photographer Denise Fuson, presenting on emulsion image transfer allowing for manipulation of photographic images. 7pm, EC Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane.  
**Mar. 12 Bouquets to Art, El Cerrito** Garden Club members display their own floral arrangements with art that complements arrangements. 9:30am, EC Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane. Members free, guests \$3.  
**Mar. 15 Rev. Earl W. Koteen**, Unitarian Universalist ecological justice minister, will speak on how to think holistically about justice and our current political and economic systems and moment. He had a 30-year career in strategic planning, organizational development, and human resources before entering the ministry. UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**Mar. 16 Monthly Memoir Group.** Free Group led by Ruth Robinson in the Fireside Room. 10am. ACC.  
**Mar. 16 Scratch Art Masks & Drawings** Back by popular demand! Using a scratching stick reveal rainbow colors beneath the black coated animal and super hero masks. Create your own personal designs! Kensington Library, 3-4pm. Free.  
**Mar. 16 Kensington's 2nd Annual Spring Seed Swap** Bring some seeds from your garden (or trusted garden supply) and leave with a bounty of seeds, recipes, books, new friends, and more! There will be a drawing for garden goodies, and local experts on hand to answer questions from beginners or trade tips with fellow experts. Join us! Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.  
**Mar. 17 Mike the Magician** Mike Della Penna creates wonder and laughter with family magic performances that are equal parts playful and astonish-

ing! You won't want to miss this show! Kensington Library, 6:30pm. Free.  
**Mar. 19 Bridge Night** Monthly potluck and bridge play at all levels for ACC'ers and new guests 6pm.  
**Mar. 21 Alvaughn Rodgers, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** recruitment coordinator, will talk about court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused or neglected children. Christ Lutheran Church, 780 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito. 10am, free. All welcome.  
**Mar. 21 CommUniTea**, Neighborhood Teatime & Talk Come get to know your neighbors and taste treats and fine teas at Raxakoul Coffee and Cheese Market on the Arlington. 4-6pm. Keiki Fujita runs these monthly events that feature local musicians, artisan gifts, new products, and more.  
**Mar. 22 David Roberts**, MBA, JD, UUCB Board of Trustees member, on "Failure as a Means of Growth." UUCB, 9:30am. Free.  
**Mar. 23 Kensington Library Book Club** Join the discussion! This month's selection is a continuation of *Middlemarch* by George Eliot. Open to all. The book group alternates classic and contemporary literature on a monthly basis. Each meeting starts with a poem selected and read by a member. 6:30pm. Free.  
**Mar. 24 Balancing Butterflies** Cut out and color cardstock butterflies, tape on pennies & a toothpick and watch the butterflies balance on your fingers with just the toothpick. Fun! Kensington Library, 3pm. Free.  
**Mar. 29 Rev. Dr. Jeanne Foster**, professor emerita at Saint Mary's College, published poet and storyteller. "What Does It Mean to Honor your Mother?" UUCB, 9:30am. Free.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE THIRD ANNUAL

COLUSA CIRCLE 5K

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 AT 8AM



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# JANUARY POLICE LOG

**1 DANGEROUS OR GRAVELY DISABLED PERSON**, Coventry Rd. Possibly has knife, history of mental illness, has not been taking med for about a week. RP could hear her mother telling subject to put the knife down. HAZARD, Cowper. Pole fire.

**2 VEHICLE TAMPERING**, Beverly Rd. Catalytic converter theft.

**4 GRAND THEFT**, Highgate Rd. Just discovered, catalytic converter taken unknown if anything else taken. RP also says that his roommate's car was broken into and his tires were taken.

**BURGLARY**, Vassar Av. Right side rear window smashed, nothing taken.

**PETTY THEFT**, Yale Ave. Unsecured bike left in the corner of the driveway. RP is a dog walker for the residents.

**7 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Lawson Rd. RP believes that there may be someone inside of utility room that he is attempting to enter. He would like an officer to come out. Reported Situation checks out O.K.

**8 PETTY THEFT**, Lake Dr. Victim is a postal carrier. Transferred by COCO SO, who rec'd the call from ASCO, caller disconnected and on callback unable to take my call.

**9 CASE/INCIDENT FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY**, KPD. Contacting neighboring agencies for investigative leads.

**PETTY THEFT**, Norwood Ave. Six large packages taken from carport area between 1311 and 1443hrs.

**11 HIT AND RUN - Property Damage**, Loran Ct./Coventry. RP states that there is nothing to see, she's already taken pictures. Just wanted to report in case she wanted to go through the insurance.

**12 BURGLARY**, Kensington Ct. Broke window, took rearview mirror.

**13 VEHICLE TAMPERING**, Kensington Ct. Catalytic converter.

**ANIMAL CALL**, Kensington Park. Dog off leash owner is unkn female wearing a navy blue puff coat with friend in purple puff coat. RP asked her to put her dog on leash, subject spoke to her aggressively. L/S n/b on Highland. RP would like contact. Unable to Locate.

**16 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Kensington Ct. RP heard from some of her neighbors that there was a man coming and going on and off RP's property claiming to be with PG&E. There is now a workhorse set up ifo RP's residence stating the road will be closed for an extended period of time, RP has contacted PG&E and they are not aware of any projects in the area. RP has a dog that is inside the residence with her.

**17 BURGLARY**, Kenyon Ave. Driver side window smashed.

**HIT AND RUN - Property Damage**, Amherst Ave.

**HAZARD**, Kingston Rd. Wire was down in the middle of street, possibly may have hap-pened last night, RP heard a loud sound, observed a subj get out of his veh and check for something, then drive away. RP moved the wire ifo her res.

**MISC CIVIL MATTER**, Franciscan Way. RP/tenant wants an officer to go to residence to discuss issues involv-ing roommates. Who is the master tenant, who is constantly bringing in "criminals," who steals and causes verbal arguments and one of the females he had over went to her room and began screaming and threat-ened to kill her. No weapons known to be stored in the house with the exception of kitchen knives.

**18 COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING**, Officer initiated activity at Raxakoul, Arlington Av.

**MISC PUB AUTO**, KPD. RP was involved in a non-injury accident 01/14/2020 near KPD, exchanged information with the other driver. RP stated they also filled out the online report form.

**19 SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE**, Reed Pl. Rec'd packages that contained medicinal products over the weekend that they did not order. They noticed that one of their credit cards had been used to make the purchase, they have a packing slip with an email address for the person who made the order.

**20 SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S**, Arlmont Dr. Yesterday afternoon there was a strange man behind yard, reached over and tried to open back gate. WMA, brown hair, light gray slacks, navy sweater, 30s. Emailed neighbors, did not report yesterday because she did not think police station was open.

**DISTURBANCE OF PEACE**, Amherst Av. Female heard saying help me, stop. Male/ female and a daughter are residents. Reported Situation checks out O.K.

**21 BURGLARY**, Franciscan Way. Residential, RP is inside residence. Back door was open. No one else inside. Unknwn what items taken. RP is daughter of homeowners.

**22 ANIMAL CALL**, Arlington Av. Driver hit a deer and unk which direction it went. Report is Unfounded.

**MISSING PERSON REPORT**, Cowper Av. Father went out to run errands and vehicle he used is back at the residence but he is nowhere to be found. Checked entire property and inside the resi-dence and still can't find him. Takes gout medicine. Disposition: Person was located.

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REQUEST FOR EXTRA PATROL, Columbia Ave. Posted an item for sale on NextDoor and was in commu-nication with someone. RP gave them her address and told them she would be going out of town, she is concerned she may have left herself open to a possible crime. She would like a call back for advice.

**23 VEHICLE ACCIDENT - No Details**, Vassar Av. Veh ran off the road and into the house female driver, unknown injuries and gas leak coming from the house. Blocking off Vassar FD park on Yale.

**24 ANIMAL CALL**, Yale Av. Off leash golden retriever attacked a smaller white puppy no visible injuries. Resp. WMA lives at the corner of Yale/Oberlin and his dog has attacked her dog before and she called Animal Control before.

**25 MISSING PERSON REPORT**, Yale Av. RP's daughter hasn't been heard from in 2 days, she has been smoking meth with her boyfriend and he called RP's family member and told them that she ran away with someone else. RP is concerned that boyfriend may have harmed her in some way since he has been physical with her before, he has broken one of her fingers. RP also stated her daugh-ter turned on her phone location and has said that if anything happens to her it's him.

**27 MISC CIVIL MATTER**, KPD. RP heard three messages on her home message machine today at 0900 from two companies advising her she would be billed for purchases she advises she did not make. Two messages were left about a \$390.00 invoice. The third message was left by an unknown caller concerning the purchase of an XR11 iPhone for \$799.00 shipped to an unknown address in Dayton, Ohio. The RP did not order the XR11 iPhone. The RP has not confirmed that these charges were on her credit cards at this time. RP advised she saw her granddaughter playing with a \$17.00 vTech preschool laptop at a recent party. RP has not spoken to her son-in-law about this as she advised he may have purchased this preschool laptop. No crime has been estab-lished at this time so she was advised to contact KPD if her credit card was used to make these purchases.

**29 MISC CIVIL MATTER**, Colusa Av. Neighbor in apt above making inappropriate remarks and came down trying RP's door handle, says she was followed to Safeway 2 weeks ago by male who remained outside waiting for her (BMA in toyt camry, male upstairs is a WMA says they are always arguing w/another 70yro resident. Civil Matter - Parties Advised.

**31 SUSPICIOUS PERSON/S**, San Carlos. Restrained father circling school in black Lexus SUV, white male. Disposition: Assistance Given to Outside Agency.

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# Kensington People's History



This photo, taken in Kensington on October 7, 1979, is likely from a Kensington Community Center Fun Run. Front, left to right: Kristen Jones, Sarah Yourd, Emily Yourd, Bill Sortor, Hillary Sortor, friend behind the chair unknown, Pauline Sortor. Back, left to right: David Welden, unknown, BJ Welden, Kim Ellis, Megan Ellis, Lois Hoagland, Judy Alley, Lou Alley. The car belonged to Randy and Sara Laferte. For those too young to recognize this common sight, Bill Sortor is not rolling a joint—he is loading film into his camera. Photographer is unknown. If you find photos of Kensington’s “people history,” send jpgs and captions to editor@kensingtonoutlook.com. We’ll print them when space permits.

## ACC Tackles Medical Debt

By Sara Laferte

During the season of Lent, Arlington Community Church will funnel donations to pay off medical debts for people who can’t pay them. ACC is working with a group of local churches, including First Church Berkeley and City of Refuge in Oakland, through the nonprofit RIP Medical Debt. RIP uses money from donors to buy medical debt portfolios from bill collectors for pennies on the dollar. But instead of collecting the debt, RIP forgives it.

Here’s how it works: Medical bills can be overwhelming for low-income people. Such debt may be packaged with other people’s and sold in a bundle to collection agencies for a fraction of its total value.

RIP Medical Debt buys those bundles from collection agencies. Individuals with debt receive a letter from RIP, telling them that their medical bills are paid.

“No one should have to feel the burden of overwhelming medical debt, and yet it is a reality for so many Americans,” said ACC Rev. Nate Klug. “Local churches are joining together to turn our thousands of dollars into millions of dollars of debt relief for our neighbors in the East Bay.”

Small donations make enormous differences. In October 2019, a group of churches in Chicago raised \$38,000 and paid off \$5.3 million of debt for 5,888 low-income families. If you would like to know more or contribute to this gift, please visit the ACC website or email RevNateKlug@gmail.com.

## Grand Jurors Sought

By Linnea Due

Want an opportunity for rewarding public service? Contra Costa County Superior Court is accepting applications for civil grand jury service for fiscal year 2020-21.

Grand jurors develop solutions to problems and work on improving services to the community; each is considered an officer of the Superior Court and operates under its auspices. Ability to listen and ask relevant questions is vital. Only nineteen jurors serve for the year-long term. Applications are available at [www.cc-courts.org/grandjury](http://www.cc-courts.org/grandjury) or by calling 925-608-2621. Act quickly: the application deadline is March 13.

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**Town Meetings**  
KCC–Mar. 2, 6:30pm. 525-0292 Building E  
KPSC–Mar. 9, Kensington Public Safety Council Earthquake/ Disaster Preparedness, 6pm. 501-8165  
KARO/ECHO–Mar. 9, Amateur Radio Operators, 7pm. 524-9815  
KFPD–Mar. 11, 7pm Building E, 527-8395

**KIC**–Mar. 23 Kensington Improvement Club, 7:30. 524-7415  
**KPPCSD**–Mar. 12, 7:30pm. ACC. 526-4141  
**KPOA**–Mar. 2, Kensington Property Owners Association, 7pm ACC. 325-1401.  
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